

QATAR RESEARCH LEADERSHIP PROGRAM HOLDS THIRD ANNUAL MEETING IN THE UNITED STATES

Students Discussed Their Future Career Plans And Were Introduced To Several Research Institutes During Gathering

Doha, Qatar, 06 January 2016: The Office of Education, Training and Development (OETD), part of Qatar Foundation Research and Development (QF R&D), successfully organised its third annual United States gathering for its Qatar Research Leadership Program (QRLP) students who are currently enrolled in various undergraduate through post-doctoral programmes across the US. The gathering was held in Houston, Texas.

This year saw the attendance of 31 students and representatives from Qatar Environment and Energy Research Institute (QEERI), Qatar Computing Research Institute (QCRI), Qatar Biomedical Research Institute (QBRI), and Qatar Science and Technology Park (QSTP).

The main objective of the gathering was for the students to learn about research and development activities in Qatar and to discuss their academic progress and future career plans. Additionally, the meeting provided a great opportunity for the students to network and learn from their peers, and was in-line with Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development's (QF) efforts to unlock human potential.

Dr Walid Qoronfleh from QBRI was impressed with the outcome of the gathering and the calibre of students. "It was a great QRLP gathering in Houston, where future QF leaders, bright minds, and ambitious scholars came together for scientific exchange and interaction with the determination to succeed and build a research culture in Doha," he said.

The Qatar entities addressed the students with presentations on the overview, objectives, internships, and research and development programmes. Also, selected PhD students presented their work to each institute separately.

"Meeting QEERI-affiliated QRLP fellows provides a great opportunity to connect with the fellows, discuss their academic and research progress, and offer advice and support to their future plans. Additionally, it gives QEERI a chance to present an update on research programmes and advance and help them align their studies and research with Qatar's national needs. Furthermore, this event provides an opportunity for the fellows to bond and establish a

network that can be very beneficial to all of them. The one-to-one meetings were very useful in providing the fellows with a support platform to ensure their success,” said Dr Marwan Khraisheh, the QEERI representative.

In-line with the capacity building goal of the Qatar National Research Strategy, the gathering proved successful in guiding and providing suitable advice to QRLP students particularly in regards to their career plans.

“It’s inspiring to connect with the future leaders in science in Qatar, the QRLP members.” Ahmed Abushaikha, a QRLP Post-doctorate at Stanford University, said.

“I’m grateful for QRLP for the great efforts they put together to have these gatherings. They don’t only reduce distances by updating us on what is going on back home; they also motivate us to do our best to achieve excellence,” Kholoud Saleh, a QRLP member, said.

“Coming to the conference and talking to graduate students who study in elite universities about their research inspires me to go beyond my limits,” Abdulla Al-Ishaq, an undergraduate student at the University of California, Davis, added.

Qatar Foundation Research and Development is proud of all the QRLP members who will eventually fill the much needed human capacity needs of Qatar’s research and development enterprise.

Photo Captions

Image 1: A Qatar Environment and Energy Research Institute (QEERI) representative during the recent QRLP meeting in Houston.

Image 2: Participants from the Qatar Research Leadership Program gathering held recently.

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About Qatar Foundation Research and Development (QF R&D)

"Qatar Foundation Research and Development (QF R&D) is charged with the Qatar National Research Strategy, dedicated to making Qatar a leading center for research and development excellence and innovation. QF R&D is home to Qatar National Research Fund, a leading scientific research funding



organization, Qatar Science & Technology Park, an international hub for technology innovation and commercialization.

Qatar Foundation – Unlocking Human Potential

Qatar Foundation for Education, Science, and Community Development (QF) is a private, non-profit organisation that is supporting Qatar on its journey from carbon economy to knowledge economy by unlocking human potential, for the benefit of not only Qatar, but the world. QF was co-founded in 1995 by His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, the Father Amir, and Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, Qatar Foundation's Chairperson. QF's work encompasses education, research and community development. World-class universities are brought to Qatar to help create an education sector in which young people can develop the attitudes and skills required for a knowledge economy. At the same time, QF builds Qatar's innovation and technology capacity by developing and commercialising solutions through key sciences. The Foundation also works to foster a progressive society while enhancing cultural life, protecting Qatar's heritage and addressing immediate social needs in the community.

For a complete list of QF's initiatives and projects, visit <http://www.qf.org.qa>